



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KAWAZURA et al.

Serial No. 09/506,443

Filed: February 18, 2000

For: RUBBER COMPOSITION

Confirmation No: 8222

Art Unit: 1711

Examiner: J. Mullis

Attorney Docket No.: 100021-09056

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 30, 2003

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments without prejudice.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 14 as follows. Attached is a marked-up copy showing changes to the claims.

**14 (Thrice Amended).** A rubber composition consisting essentially of (I) 100 parts by weight of a block copolymer having at least two mutually incompatible blocks (a) and (b) and composed of at least one conjugated diene monomer and, optionally, at least one aromatic vinyl monomer and (II) 5 to 200 parts by weight of (i) a polymer ( $\alpha$ ) compatible with the block (a), (ii) a polymer ( $\beta$ ) compatible with the block (b) or (iii) a mixture of the polymer ( $\alpha$ ) and the polymer ( $\beta$ ), wherein the weight average molecular weights of the polymers ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) satisfy the following equations (III) and (IV):

very large amount of polymer